

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P R 121225Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2299

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ACCORD REACHED AT CENTER-LEFT "SUMMIT"

LONDON PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR VOLPE

REF: ROME 13302

1. IN DAY-LONG "SUMIT" MEETING DECEMBER 11, TOP LEADERSHIP OF FOUR CENTER-LEFT PARTIES REACHED UNANIMOUS ACCORD ON GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM GOALS FOR COMING MONTHS. FINAL COMMUNIQUE UNDERSCORES SERIOUSNESS OF ECONOMIC SITUATION AGGRAVATED BY ENERGY SHORTAGE, AND CALLS FOR "RIGOROUS FINANCIAL POLICY, BASED ON UNAVOIDABLE NEED NOT TO INCREASE CURRENT EXPENDES IN ANY FASHION, SO THAT AVAILABLE RESOURCES MAY BE DEVOTED TO PRODUCTIVE AND SOCIAL INVESTMENTS." AMONG LATTER, PRIORITY IS ACCORDED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SCHOOL, HOSPITAL AND HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND AGRICULTURE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON UNDERDEVELOPED SOUTH. BRIEF PARAGRAPH ON FOREIGN POLICY UNDERLINES COALITION SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNIFICATION AND CALLS FOR COMMON EUROPEAN POLICY TOWARD ENERGY CRISIS AND MIDDLE EAST. DOCUMENT DID NOT ADDRESS CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF REFORM OF STATE RADIO-TELEVISION MONOPOLY, BUT FURTHER INTER-PARTY MEETINGS ARE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN ONE YEAR INTERIM EXTENSION OF CURRENT

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CHARTER.

2. PRIME MINISTER RUMOR AND PARTY SECRETARIES HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT ACCORD. REPUBLICAN MINISTER OF TREASURY, LA MALFA, NOTED DOCUMENT HAD FACED UP TO PRESENT ECONOMIC REALITIES AND HAD SET OUT "RIGOROUS FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH PUBLIC EXPENDES AND PRODUCTIVE AND SOCIAL INVESTMENTS MUST BE KEPT." SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY DE MARTINO, WHILE OBSERVING THAT DOCUMENT HAD "POSITIVE POINTS AND OTHERS LESS SO", LAUDED "UNDERTAKING TO FACE PRESENT PROBLEMS WITH AN AIM TO MODIFY DEVELOPMENT METHODS AND LINK THEM TO ACHIEVEMENT OF REFORMS".

3. COMMENT: ACCORD DOES NOT RESOLVE BASIC PROBLEMS ON ECONOMIC POLICY WITHIN COALITION (SEE REFTEL) BUT DOES GIVE HOPE FOR GOVERNMENT COHESION IN COMING MONTHS. BEAUDRY

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